

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for detecting the presence of hot-pluggable components in a computer system. The method and apparatus includes an electromagnetic energy source located on a first side of a system board proximate an edge connector, the electromagnetic energy source for generating electromagnetic energy directed at least toward a second opposing side of the system board. The method and apparatus further includes an electromagnetic energy detector located on the second side of the system board, the electromagnetic energy detector for detecting a presence of electromagnetic energy when a hot-pluggable component is not mated to the edge connector and the electromagnetic energy is thereby unobstructed by the hot-pluggable component, the electromagnetic energy detector further for detecting an absence of electromagnetic energy when the hot-pluggable component is mated to the edge connector and the electromagnetic energy is thereby obstructed by the hot-pluggable component.